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DATE: APRIL, 1987
SITE NAME: ROCKAWAY BOROUGH WELL FIELD SITE
LOCATION: ROCKAWAY BOROUGH, MORRIS COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
ID NUMBER: NJD980654115

SITE DESCRIPTION

The Rockaway Borough Well Field site is located near the intersection of Union and Maple Streets in Rockaway Borough, Morris County, New Jersey. The site consists of three municipal supply wells which are in a glacial aquifer designated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as the sole source aquifer for Rockaway Borough and the surrounding communities. The Rockaway Borough Water Department currently operates the well field and treats the water supply by activated carbon adsorption. No sources of contamination have been identified at this time, although several potential sources exist.

The site is located in a suburban residential setting and is surrounded by homes, businesses and municipal property. The wells are set within the Upper Rockaway watershed in Rockaway Borough and portions of neighboring Denville and Rockaway Townships. In addition, Rockaway Borough sells water to Rockaway Township for distribution within its own system. High concentrations of tetrachloroethylene (PCE) and trichloroethylene (TCE) have been detected in the aquifer since 1980.

ACTIVITIES TO DATE

In 1979, volatile organic contamination was detected in the municipal wells in Rockaway Township. These findings prompted the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) to test the water quality in neighboring areas. Samples taken in 1980 found volatile organic contamination in three of Rockaway Borough's municipal supply wells. A water emergency was declared on February 28, 1981 and temporary drinking water supplies were made available to the public in tank trucks provided by the National Guard. The Borough of Rockaway constructed a three-bed granular activated carbon adsorption system during the water emergency period. The Rockaway Borough Well Field site was placed on the National Priorities List in December 1982.

Utilizing CERCLA funds, a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) was performed under a Cooperative Agreement with the State of New Jersey. The Record of Decision (ROD) was signed on September 29, 1986 and established the following:

- The Borough will continue to maintain the existing granular activated carbon treatment system. The operations should be modified to ensure compliance with current Safe Drinking Water Act standards.

RWY 003 0975 L

- EPA will expand the RI/FS to attempt to identify the contaminant source(s), delineate further the full extent of contamination, and evaluate additional remedial action alternatives to address those sources.

The Cooperative Agreement was amended in April 1987, and \$600,000 was awarded for the performance of the Supplemental RI/FS to determine the nature and extent of contamination and the sources. A PRP search has been conducted in the areas identified as sources of organic contamination, namely PCE and TCE.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

An expanded RI/FS work plan will be written and the expanded RI/FS will begin shortly thereafter.

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